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determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of said Northern blot.

REMARKS

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. Additionally, claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled in order to reduce the issues, claim 3 is now independent and claim 5 has been amended to maintain its dependency. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claim 10 is maintained as objected because of the informalities as noted on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action. These matters have been attended to by the foregoing amendment. The Examiner's kind cooperation in specifically noting the informalities is gratefully appreciated.

Claims 3 and 4 are objected to solely due to their dependence on rejected claim 2, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have, accordingly, rewritten claim 3 in independent form. The Examiner's assistance and cooperation in expediting the prosecution of this application by examining separately the subject matter of Applicants' dependent claims is gratefully acknowledged as well.

Claim 7 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility due to it not being supported by either specific, substantial or well-established utility. Claim 7 also remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for the same reasons, as do claims 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, solely in order to reduce the issues and continue

expediting prosecution of this application, claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled.

Regarding remaining claims 5, 6, 10 and 11, DNA encoding the polypeptide in SEQ ID NO:2 is no longer recited in claims 5 and 6[1/] or in claims 10 and 11[2/]. Accordingly, this rejection too is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 3-6, 10 and 11 remain presented for continued prosecution, claims 3, 10 and 11 being independent and claims 3-6, at least, having been indicated as allowable with claims 10 and 11 now plainly being in allowable condition as well.

1/ The recombinant DNA and the transformant containing the recombinant DNA in amended claims 5 and 6 are useful for producing the DNA in claims 3 or 4.

2/ The present application discloses the relevance with IgA nephropathy for DNA comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 (and DNA which hybridizes to that sequence under stringent conditions).

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

3. (Amended) [The] An isolated DNA [according to claim 2], [which comprises] comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Amended) A recombinant DNA which comprises a vector and the DNA according to [any one of] claims [2 to 4 and a vector] 3 or 4.

10. (Four Times Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence of DNA selected from the group consisting of [DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2,] DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1[,] and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a nucleotide sequence complementary to DNA selected from the group consisting of [DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2,] DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1[,] and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent

conditions;

using said [oligonuleotides] oligonucleotides in a reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of said reverse-transcription-polymerase [claim] chain reaction.

11. (Four Time Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a nucleotide sequence complementary to DNA selected from the group consisting of [DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2,] DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1[,] and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;

using said olignucleotide in a Northern blot to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of said Northern blot.